

14

फाइल सं०

File No. I-12014/13/2000-NCB (Pvt)

खण्ड

Volume

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
गृह मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

अनुभाग

Section NCB

टिप्पणियां/पत्राचार

NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

को सूचीकृत की गई

Indexed on

आध्याक्षर

Initials

अभिलेख क/ख

Record A/B

अभिलेख य में नष्ट गए

Record C Destroyed in

नोट किया जाए

अनुभागीया नोट बुक

नोट न किया जाए

To be noted

In Sectional Note Book

Not to be noted

अनु० अ०/अधीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर

Initials of S.O./Supdt.

लिपिक के हस्ताक्षर

Initials of Clerk

विषय

SUBJECT

Orders / directions passed by Justice
Mulherjee Commission of Inquiry -
Compliance thereof by MHA etc.
- reg. Copies of photographs at the
Scene of plane crash.

Notes - 02

Corr - 17

पिछले हवाले

Previous References

बाद के हवाले

Later References

1 copy

for

16/11/15

①

Ministry of Home Affairs
NCB Section

.....


Reference PR

JMCI have sought copies of photographs taken at the scene of the plane crash as also at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji. We have made various efforts to locate such photographs in our record room but could not lay our hands on any such document/photographs.

Before any committal position is informed to the Commission we may request PMO, DIB, MEA, M/o Defence and National Archives of India as per DFA.



(M.S. ZUHA)
DESK OFFICER

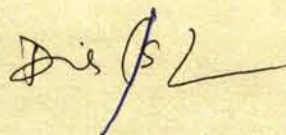
~~DIRECTOR(S)~~

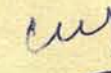

10/6

~~IS(S)~~

SS/BS/03
12/6


12.6.2013.




12/6

DO (12/6)

. 2 -

Ministry of Home Affairs
NCB Section
.....

Reference FR

We may advise IB to intimate the clear position whether the photographs taken at the Hospital is available or not directly to JMCI as per DFA.

(Signature)
(M.S. ZUHA)
25/9/03
DESK OFFICER

DIRECTOR(S)

(Signature)
25/9

DO CNEB

In response to this Ministry's O.M. dated 24-9-03 CP-1610
I.B has stated vide FR that they do not have any
Photograph of Hetaji taken in Hospital reg. photograph
taken at the scene of the plane crash and the photographs
taken at the hospital after the alleged death of Hetaji.

Submitted for information please.

Hseth
28/11/03

DO CNEB

(Signature)
28/11

JUSTICE MUKHERJEE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
FOR INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCE OF
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.
'B' Block, (Third Floor)
11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata 700 087

Phone:

Chairman -- 252-2839
Secretary -- 252-2767
Officer on
Special Duty -- 252-2765
Office -- 252-2766/68

e-mail: jmcinseba@cal.3.vsnl.net

By Registered
Post with A/D.

Fax : 0091-033-252-2765

No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II) / 71
Kolkata, dated, May 27, 2003

From : Shri P.K. Sengupta,
Secretary

To : The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India
North Block
New Delhi-110001.



Sir,

I am directed to refer to the letter No. AG 201 Bose (16th Sept., '45) GB dated October 11, 1945 from the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the allied powers addressed to the Chief of Staff, War Department, Washington, 25 D.C. (copy enclosed) and the enclosure thereto which is a purported copy of three-page summary of information regarding Subhas Chandra Bose (copy enclosed) and to request you to make endeavours to get the photographs of the scene of the plane crash as also the photographs taken at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji and to send to the Commission the prints of those photographs along with the negatives thereof as early as possible since para 4 at page 3 of the said Summary reveals that, according to Habibur Rahman, photos were taken at the scene of the plane crash as also at the Hospital after the alleged death of Subhas Chandra Bose and that those photos were then in the possession of the Japanese War Office in Tokyo.

I am further directed to state that those photos appear to have not been produced before the Khosla Commission and the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee.

Enclosures : As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

(P. K. Sengupta)
Secretary

URGENT
on file
4/6

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

0211203

AG 201 Bose (16 Sep 45)CS

11 October 1945

SUBJECT: Death of Subhas Chandra Bose

TO : Chief of Staff, War Department, Washington, 25, D. C.
(Attn: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2)

1. Reference is made to War Department radio W 65374 of 18 September regarding the death of Indian Puppet Leader, Chandra Bose, and reply thereto by this headquarters in radio ZAX 5634 of 19 September.

2. Bose's former deputy Chief of Staff and Aide de Camp, Rahman Khan, who survived the airplane accident, was interrogated in Tokyo. A resume is transmitted herewith as Inclosure 1.

FOR THE SUPREME COMMANDER:

H. W. Allen
H. W. ALLEN,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Asst Adjutant General.

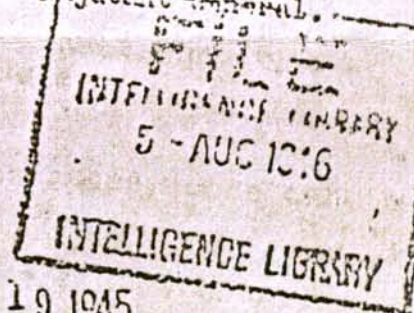
1 Incl:
C/I, Subj: As Above.

MIS 211203(3SC)

Folec 2
Route
WW
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ONI 1

Incl: Folec 1
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Lib
ONI 1

37W Recd DEC 19 1945



RECEIVED 1112 0000
Must be forwarded to
Intelligence Library

Must be forwarded to
Intelligence Library
37W Recd DEC 19 1945

RECEIVED
6 NOV 1945

1

NND 745 076
C-3
ID File Entry 85A
Records of the War (1945) RG 219

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION - Subhas Chandra Bose Continued

On 22 August 1945, the body was admitted to the hospital crematory and on 25 August 1945, the ashes were removed by Nakamura and Major Nakatone.

Rahman advised that on 31 August 1945, he was removed to the Japanese Army Hospital at Mukto, Formosa. On 4 September 1945, he accompanied the ashes of Bose to Gifu, Gonsan, Japan, from where he traveled by rail to Tokyo, arriving on 5 September 1945. Rahman was met by 2d Lt (FRC) Asagawa, a Japanese representative of the General Staff, who took him to Mr. Rama Murti's residence. Due to the crowded conditions, Rahman moved to the residence of Mrs. A. M. Sahay, Kamioniaubo, 1 chome #103, Tokyo, where he remained for five or six days. Arrangements were made for him to remain with Mr. Rama Murti until such time as his residence could be prepared for occupancy.

The ashes of Bose were delivered to Rama Murti who retained them until 13 September 1945, at which time prayers were held and the ashes placed in the Kenkogi Temple. The services were attended by numerous Indian Nationals in Tokyo.

According to Rahman, photos were taken at the scene of the crash and also at the hospital after the death of Bose. The photos are at present in possession of the "Japanese War Office" in Tokyo.

Rahman further advised that he was questioned by Lt. [redacted] relative to the death of Mr. Bose some time between 7 and 10 September 1945.

At the time of departure from Singapore, Bose carried with him four pieces of luggage and one briefcase which contained personal effects and official correspondence. At Saigon, he was forced to leave one of the pieces because of the overload on the aircraft, whereupon he rearranged his luggage and disposed of portions of his personal clothing. Mr. Bose's personal effects and the official correspondence were destroyed at the time of the accident.

Previous Distribution:

- 1 - CC 308th CIC Det
- 1 - CC 311th CIC Det

Distribution:

- 3 - G-2, GRC, AFPAO
- 1 - G-3, GRC, AFPAO
- 2 - File

Evaluation

... of source ... of Information

D

5

CONFIDENTIAL

211203-2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
US. MARINE HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
41st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment

0211203

3

ADVANCE SECTION

AFPO 5001

23 September 1945

SUBJECT: Death of Subhas Chandra Bose

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The following information concerning the circumstances of the death of Subhas Chandra Bose, head of the Indian National Army, was obtained on 24 September 1945, through interview of Habib ur-Rahman Khan, former Deputy Chief of Staff and Aide to Camp to Bose, at the Tokyo residence of Rama Murli, head of the Indian Independence League:

Rahman held the rank of Colonel and was the Deputy Chief of Staff under Chief of Staff, Major General J. X. Rhonsle. He was also the Aide de Camp to Bose, with headquarters in Singapore, China. Rahman revealed that on 16 August 1945 he accompanied Bose on a proposed trip to Tokyo, Japan, to negotiate with the Japanese Government as to the disposition of the India National Army, but the plane in which they were riding crashed and Bose was killed. The following is the itinerary described by Rahman:

16 August 1945

1000. Departed Singapore
1530. Arrived Bangkok - Remained overnight

17 August 1945

0800 Departed Bangkok
1100 Arrived Saigon - Changed planes
1700 Departed Saigon
1945 Arrived Tourane, French Indo China
Remained overnight

18 August 1945

0700 Departed Tourane
1400 Arrived Taihoku - ate lunch
1435 Departed Taihoku - plane crashed

According to Rahman, the plane had not gained much altitude after the take-off from Taihoku, when he heard a

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

211203-1

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION - Subhas Chandra Bose . . . Continued 55
4

terrific explosion and felt the plane vibrating violently. He later learned that the plane had lost the propeller from its port engine and was out of control. The pilot made an effort to land but was unable to regain control and the plane crashed at the end of the airfield. Rahman stated that he was not rendered unconscious and noticed immediately after the crash that the interior of the plane broke into flame at the nose and tail. Due to the terrific crash, the canopy overhead was broken and it was through this opening that those not too seriously injured or instantly killed escaped from the burning plane. He revealed that he had no knowledge of how Bose escaped or was removed from the plane. He stated that upon alighting from the plane he noticed his own coat afire. He removed it immediately and then saw Bose lying by the plane with his clothing aflame, whereupon Rahman went to the aid of Bose and removed his burning clothing. He added that the seat Bose occupied in the aircraft was beside a petrol tank and at the time of the crash the tank exploded, spreading the burning fuel on Bose's clothing.

It was at this time that vehicles from the airfield came to the crash and removed all persons to the Japanese Military Hospital (Rikugun Jiyochin) in Taihoku where they received medical treatment. It was later determined that Bose received serious injuries about the head and neck in addition to his severe burns. Rahman received two lacerations on his head, one on his right leg and burns on his hands, arms, and face. According to Rahman, Bose recovered sufficiently to carry on a conversation and complained of the pain in his head and asked him to request that the medical authorities check his blood pressure. Rahman declared that at approximately 2100, 15 August 1945, Bose died of the injuries received in the plane crash. Those present at the time of his death, in addition to the medical authorities, were Rahman and (FMU) Hokenura of the Japanese Foreign Office in Taihoku. Other passengers in the plane, as named by Rahman, were Lt Gen. Shudel, Lt Col Sakai, 5 or 6 other Japanese officers and the crew.

On 20 August 1945, Bose was removed from the hospital and his remains were placed in a box provided by the Japanese. Rahman requested the remains be flown to Singapore or to Tokyo. Major (FMU) Haytome, a Japanese Staff Officer with headquarters in Taihoku, informed Rahman on 21 August 1945, that it would be impossible to transport the remains by air due to the size of the box in which Bose was placed. Major Haytome suggested to Rahman, at that time that the body be cremated and Rahman, after careful consideration, agreed.

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

21/205-2

(5)

No.I-12014/13/2000-NCB
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
.....

New Delhi dated 6.6.03

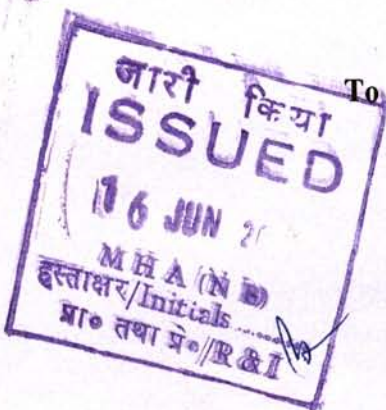
Subject: Regarding photographs of the scene of the plane crash as also at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji.
.....

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/71 dated 27.5.03 regarding photographs taken at the scene of the plane crash and the photographs taken at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji.

We have made vigorous efforts to search these documents/photographs in the records of this Ministry but could not lay our hands on any such document. Before any firm information is furnished to the Commission, it is requested that efforts may please be made in the Cabinet Secretariat, PMO, DIB, MEA, M/o Defence and National Archives of India to see if such photographs mentioned therein are available in that Ministry/Departement. If so, the result of the efforts to locate the above photographs may please be communicated to JMCI under intimation to this Ministry.

This issues with the approval of JS(S).

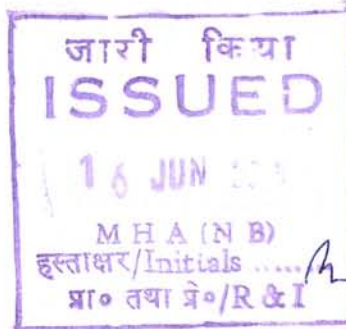

(M.S. ZUHA)
DESK OFFICER
o/c



- 1) The Director,
PMO.
(Attn: Ms. Archana Ranjan) ✓
- 2) The Deputy Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
Rashtrapati Bhavan,
New Delhi.
(Attn: Shri Ravi Mital) ✓
- 3) The Joint Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
South Block,
New Delhi-110 011.
(Attn: Shri Jayant Prasad) ✓

- 6
- 4) Director (History),
Ministry of Defence,
Division, 3/West Block-8
Wing-I, R.K. Puram,
New Delhi.
(Attn: Shri G.B. Singh)
- 5) The Assistant Director,
National Archives ,
Government of India,
Janpath,
New Delhi-110 001.
- 6) DIB

Copy to: The Secretary, Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, 'B' Block, (Third Floor) 11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata 700 087.



Tele: 26104061

Ministry of Defence
History Division
Wing-1, West Block-8
R K Puram
New Delhi-110066

2191/NIC/H/99

25 Jun 2003

To

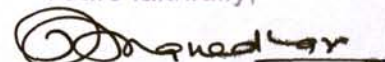
Mr M S Zuha
Desk Officer
NCB
Room No-172C
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi-110011

REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SCENE OF
THE PLANE CRASH AS ALSO AT THE HOSPITAL
AFTER THE ALLEGED DEATH OF NETAJI

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.I-12014/13/2000-NCB dt.6-6-03 and to say that the photographs mentioned in the letter under reference are not available in the Ministry of Defence. The records/documents which were in possession of History Division, Ministry of Defence had been transferred to the National Archives of India on 26 th August, 1997.

Yours faithfully,



(Mrs R Dhanedhar)
Dy Director

Mrs N.
27/6

388/03-NCB -
20/6

8
MOST IMMEDIATE

**CABINET SECRETARIAT
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN**

Subject :- Regarding photographs of the scene of the plane crash as also at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji.

Reference is invited to Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. I-12014/13/2000-NCB dated 6.6.2003 enclosing a copy of the Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry's letter dated 27.5.2003, on the subject mentioned above.

2. In this connection it is informed that no such photograph, mentioned at para 1 of the Justice Mukherjee Commission's letter, under reference is available in this Secretariat. The Commission may please be informed accordingly.

379/03-NCB-
29/6
(M. Dinakaran)
Under Secretary

M/o Home Affairs [Shri M.S. Zuha, Desk Officer.]

Cabinet Secretariat ID No. 281/12/1/2000-TS dated 26.6.2003.

Mrs N.
27/6.

9

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Subject: Photographs of the Scene of the plane crash as also at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Reference is invited to MHA letter No.I-12014/13/2000-NCB dated 06.06.2003 on the subject mentioned above.

This is to inform that information available with this office has already been made available to the JMCI and this office has no additional input/document to furnish,

Sanjay

(Sanjay Kumar Singh)
Section Officer (Pol)

✓ Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri M.S. Zuha - Desk Officer)

PMO ID No.915/11/C/2/2000-Pol

Dated: 09.07.2003

Copy to: Shri M. Roy, OSD, Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, "B" Block (Third Floor), 11/A, Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700 087 w.r.t. MHA endorsement No. I-12014/13/2000-NCB dated 6.6.2003.

(Sanjay Kumar Singh)
Section Officer (Pol)

M. N.
8/7

432/03-NCB-
1577



विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI

Vijay Gokhale
Joint Secretary (CNV)

D.O.No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.IX(III)

Dated July 15, 2003

Dear Shri Sengupta,

Please refer to your letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/72 dated 27.5.03 regarding photographs of the scene of the plane crash and photographs taken at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji.

Following a scrutiny of the records available in this Ministry, it has been found that the only photographs available are those which had been reproduced in the report of the Shah Nawaz Committee of 1956. No other photograph as called for by the Commission in their letter under reference is available with us.

Yours sincerely,

sd/-

(Vijay Gokhale)

To

Shri P.K.Sengupta
Secretary
Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry,
'B' Block, (Third Floor),
11/A Mirza Ghalib Street,
Kolkata 700 087

✓ Copy for information to Shri M.S.Zuha, Desk Officer -IS(V), Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi w.r.t. his Note No. I-12014/13/2000-NCB dated 6.6.03.

Sd/-

(Sandip Mitra)
Under Secretary(NGO)

M. N.
16/7

By Speed Post

No.I-12014/13/2000-NCB
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
.....

New Delhi dated 28.7.03

Subject: Regarding photographs of the scene of the plane crash as also at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji.

Reference this Ministry's letter of even dated 6.6.03 enclosing therewith copy of letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/20-02-03/70(II)/71 27.5.03 on the subject noted above (copy enclosed).

The report in the matter may kindly be expedited.

(M.S. ZUHA)
DESK OFFICER

- 1) The Assistant Director,
National Archives ,
Government of India,
Janpath,
New Delhi-110 001.

- 2) DIB 35A Sardar Patel Marg
Baba Dyanam

Copy to: The Secretary, Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, 'B' Block, (Third Floor) 11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata 700 087 alongwith copies of report received from P.M.O, Cabinet Sectt., M/o External Affairs and M/o Defence.



3-30 PM

Pl ishan
29/7

F. NO. 9-2(5)2001PA
Govt. of India
National Archives of India
Janpath, New Delhi the.....

12 ✓
25 JUL 2003

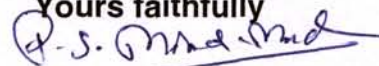
Sh.M.S.Zuha
Desk Officer
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi-110001

Subject.Regarding photographs of the scene of the plane crash as also at the hospital after the alleged death of Netaji

Sir,

With reference to your letter No L12014/13/2000NCB dated 6th June 2003 on the aforementioned subject I am to inform you that no such photographs could be found in the INA files available in the National Archives of India.

Yours faithfully



P.S.M. Moideen
Asstt. Director of Archives
For Director General of Archives
Govt. of India

Copy to
The Secretary
Justice Mukherji Commission of Inquiry
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
B, Block (Third Floor) 11/A Mirza Ghalib Street
Kolkata 700087

Mm N
4/8

488/NCB/03
25/8

Secret

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
(Ministry of Home Affairs)

13

Sub:-Regarding photographs taken at the scene of the plane crash and the photographs taken at the Hospital after the alleged death of Netaji.

MHA may please refer to their letter No.I-12014/13/2000-NCB dated 6.6.03 on the cited subject.

2. It is mentioned that copies of 5 different photographs transcribed from microfilm have been furnished to MHA vide IB UO No.IV/8(66)/2001-1018 dated 2.7.01 (copy enclosed). No other photograph is available with the IB.

By-10527/02/403
dt-19/9/03

HRK Sinha
12.8.2003
(HRK Sinha)
Assistant Director

MHA : (Shri MS Zuha, Desk Officer)

DIB UO No.IV/8(22)/02-1027 Dated: 12/8/2003

Encl:-As above.

Urgent.
Mr N.

11
-39
Secret
Most Immediate

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
(Ministry of Home Affairs)

8-3710
MHA may please refer to their UO No.I-12014/13/2000-IS(D.III) dated 21.6.2001 asking for photographs given to Shah Nawaz Committee in 1956 for submission to the Justice Mukherjee Commission enquiring into the alleged disappearance of Subhash Chandra Bose.

2. A set of 5 photographs transcribed from the microfilm, duly authenticated on reverse, is sent herewith.

(P.P. Nautiyal)
Addl. Deputy Director

MHA: Shri VP Bhatia, Under Secretary (IS-I)
DIB UO No.IV/8(66)/2001-1018 Dated 02.07.2001

Encl:- As above.

*On receipt of this communication,
the JS(IS) recorded in 21-11-01
Send all the material to the
Commission tomorrow
For necessary compliance
US Div
Self-Mr. Ghoshla
Self-M. Mittal
21.7*

Most Immediate
By Speed Post

From : MUKESH MITTAL
Deputy Secretary (IS-I)
Ministry of Home Affairs,
North Block, New Delhi.
Tele.No.301 2478 (O)

To : Shri P.K. Sengupta,
Secretary,
Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry,
B Block (IIIrd Floor)
11/A, Mirzaghali Street,
Kolkata-700 087.

No.I-12014/13/2001-IS (D.III)

Dated, the 3rd July, 2001

Subject: **Documents relating to death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow-up)/48(Vol.III)/137 dated 1st June 2001 on the subject noted above and to send herewith, authenticated documents made available to Shah Nawaz Khan Committee by the Intelligence Bureau vide their letter No.1/INA/54 dated 22nd June, 1956. These documents have been transcribed from the micro film and have also been declassified by the Intelligence Bureau.


2. With reference to your letter No.JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow-up)/48(Vol.III)/138 dated 1st June, 2001, asking the Intelligence Bureau to file an affidavit, it may be clarified that availability of documents relating to the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was checked up with the Intelligence Bureau and only then an affidavit was filed by Smt. Sangita Gairola, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs on 27.2.2001 stating therein the position in para-6 thereof about availability of documents as intimated by Intelligence Bureau. Please confirm whether the Intelligence Bureau still needs to file a separate affidavit.

3. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Encl: As above.

(26 pages & 5 photographs)

Yours faithfully,



(MUKESH MITTAL)
Deputy Secretary (IS-I)

By Speed Post

Please return

1/3/2001

1/3/2001

1/3/2001

16

No.I-12014/13/2000-NCB
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
.....

New Delhi dated 24.9.03

Pl issue 48/96/9

Subject: Photographs taken at the scene of the plane crash and the photographs taken at the hospital after the alleged death of Netaji.

IB may please refer to their U.O.No.IV/8(22)/02-1027 dated 12/8/03 on the subject mentioned above.

It is requested that the clear position whether the photographs taken at the hospital is available or not may be intimated to Justice Mukherjee Commission directly.

[Signature]
(M.S. ZUHA)
DESK OFFICER
OK

To

**The Assistant Director,
DIB
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Attn: Shri HRK Sinha)**

Copy to: The Secretary, Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, 'B' Block (3rd floor), 11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkatta 700087.



Secret

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
(Ministry of Home Affairs)

Subject:-Regarding photographs taken at the scene of the
Plane crash and the photographs taken at the hospital
after the alleged death of Netaji.

MHA may please refer to their letter No.I-
12014/13/2000-NCB dated 24.09.03 on the cited subject.

✓ 2. IB does not have any photograph of Netaji taken in
hospital.

[Signature]
8.11.03.
(HRK Sinha)
Assistant Director

MHA : (Shri MS Zuha, Desk Officer)
DIB UO No.IV/8(22)/02-1554 Dated: 11/11/03

12014/13/2000

612/NCB/03
12/11

Most urgent
Put up in file
M/s letter
11/11

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

In the final months of the Japanese Occupation of Singapore, a memorial dedicated to the "Unknown Warrior" of the Indian National Army (INA) was constructed at this site.

The local INA was formed in 1942 with Japanese support. It sought to liberate India from the British and consisted mainly of prisoners-of-war from the British Indian Army. Subhas Chandra Bose, who led the INA from 1943 onwards, laid a foundation stone for the monument in July 1945. The Urdu words inscribed on the monument read: ITTEFAQ (unity), (QTMAD) faith and KURBANI (sacrifice).

When the British returned to Singapore, they demolished the memorial barely two months after its installation.



1. SAKHIBIN BEACH LANDING
2. KANUNJI BEACH BATTLE
3. CAUSEWAY
4. JILONG KUNCI DEFENCE LINE
5. KURUPA BEACH BATTLE
6. BATTLE OF BUKIT TIMAH
7. LIVING BEACH BATTLE SITE
8. HILL 170 BATTLE SITE
9. HILL 170 BATTLE SITE
10. LABRADOR BATTLE SITE
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18. LABRADOR BATTLE SITE
19. LABRADOR BATTLE SITE
20. LABRADOR BATTLE SITE



TENTARA INDIA

Sebuah monumen didirikan di sini pada bulan terakhir dari Perang Dunia Kedua, sebagai peringatan kepada para pejuang yang gugur dalam perjuangan mereka untuk membebaskan India dari penjajahan.

Monumen ini dibangun oleh Tentara Nasional India (INA) yang dibentuk oleh pemerintah Jepang pada bulan Agustus 1942.

Monumen ini dibangun oleh Tentara Nasional India (INA) yang dibentuk oleh pemerintah Jepang pada bulan Agustus 1942.

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY
UNION OF INDIA
INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY
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INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY
UNION OF INDIA

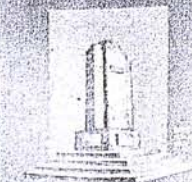
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29/01/20

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

In the final months of the Japanese Occupation of Singapore, a memorial dedicated to the "Unknown Warrior" of the Indian National Army (INA) was constructed at this site.

The local INA was formed in 1942 with Japanese support. It sought to liberate India from the British and consisted mainly of prisoners-of-war from the British Indian Army. Subhas Chandra Bose, who led the INA from 1943 onwards, laid a foundation stone for the monument in July 1945. The Urdu words inscribed on the monument read: ITTEFAQ (unity), ITMAD (faith) and KURBANI (sacrifice).

When the British returned to Singapore, they demolished the memorial barely two months after its installation.



1. BATHING BEACH LANDING
2. BATHING BEACH BATTLE
3. CALDERWAY
4. JUNGLE CAMP REFUGEE LINE
5. BURNING OF MEMORIAL
6. BURNING OF BURNING SITE
7. BURNING OF BURNING SITE
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INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

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29/01/20

36

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

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- 1 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE
- 2 - KRAVAT BEACH BATTLE
- 3 - KAPPEL BEACH
- 4 - KRAVAT BEACH
- 5 - BUKIT BATOK MEMORIAL
- 6 - BATTLE OF BUKIT TIMAH
- 7 - LEE BOE KENG'S BURNING SITE
- 8 - BUKIT BATOK BATTLE SITE
- 9 - PAPER FACTORY BATTLE SITE
- 10 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE SITE
- 11 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE SITE
- 12 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE SITE
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- 14 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE SITE
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- 17 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE SITE
- 18 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE SITE
- 19 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE SITE
- 20 - KAPPEL BEACH BATTLE SITE



TENTERA NASIONAL INDIA

Sebuah tugu untuk memperingati "Para Pahlawan Yang Tidak Dikenal" dalam Tentera Nasional India (INA) telah dibina di tapak ini pada tahun 1945.

Tentera Nasional India setempat telah dibentuk pada tahun 1942 dengan sokongan Jepun untuk membebaskan India daripada penjajahan British.

Apabila British pulang ke Singapura, mereka telah memusnahkan tugu ini.

印度国民军

1945年，这里曾建立一个纪念碑，以纪念印度国民军的“无名战士”。本地的印度国民军于1942年在日军的支持下成立，目的在于协助印度脱离英国统治，并帮助日本侵略。

இந்திய தேசிய படை.

இந்திய தேசிய இராணுவத்தின் ஈழப் படை "அறியப்படாத வீரர்கள்" நினைவிடம் கட்டப்பட்டது. இதை இந்திய தேசிய படை கட்டியது.

இந்திய தேசிய படை இந்தியாவை இந்தியர்களிடமிருந்து விடுவிப்பதற்காக 1942-இல் இந்திய தேசிய படை, இந்திய தேசிய படை.

இந்திய தேசிய படை இந்தியாவை இந்தியர்களிடமிருந்து விடுவிப்பதற்காக 1942-இல் இந்திய தேசிய படை, இந்திய தேசிய படை.

インド国民軍

インド国民軍 (INA) の「無名戦士」に捧げる記念碑が1945年に建立された。この記念碑はシンガポールに降参した英軍によって取り壊された。



29/01/20

2013



INDIAN NATIONAL
ARMY MONUMENT

26/12/2011

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MONUMENT

39

In the final months of the Japanese Occupation of Singapore, a memorial dedicated to the "Unknown Warrior" of the Indian National Army (INA) was constructed at this site.

The local INA was formed in 1942 with Japanese support. It sought to liberate India from the British and consisted



26/12/2011

Mridul Kumar

Joint Secretary (Parliament & Coord.)



Ministry of External Affairs

79, South Block, New Delhi-110011

Tel : +91-11-2301 2987; Fax : +91-11-2301 0727

E-mail: jsparlvip@mea.gov.in

MOST IMMEDIATE

TO	HICOMIND SINGAPORE
NO.	373/JS(Parl. & Coord.)/2013
DATE	January 23, 2013
NO. OF PAGES	Four

High Commissioner from Joint Secretary(Parl. & Coord.)

Repeat : Joint Secretary(South)

Repeat: Joint Secretary (EAMO)

Please find enclosed a copy of letter from Dr. Ranjit Bhargava addressed to Hon'ble External Affairs Minister regarding non-descript state of the Indian National Army Memorial in Farrer Park, Singapore.

2. You may kindly look into the matter and take necessary action under intimation to undersigned. A draft response from EAM to Dr. Bhargava on the subject will be highly appreciated.

with kind regards,

M. P. v. draft reply

[Mridul Kumar]

24/1

Encl.: As above

DNC

*According to CSMOP 'Each Communication received from the Member of Parliament, a member of the public, a recognized association of a public body will be acknowledge within 15 days, followed by a reply within the next 15 days of acknowledgment sent'.

Pl go and see Draft placed below.

the memorial.

Is the description the

at x' accurate ??

huc M 28/1

28/1

R. K. Dr. RANJIT BHARGAVA

D.F.A, Ph.D.

PADMA SHRI

Officer, Order of the Golden Ark (Netherlands)

Ritter, Order of Merit (Germany)



Phone : 05942-235713

Mobile : 9235556288

THE HIVE, AYARPATA

NAINITAL-263001

(UTTARAKHAND)

No. 476 EAM/20.../13
Dated 15/11/13

JS (Par) November 1, 2012

Date 15/11/13

Subject :- NEGLECT OF INDIA'S HERITAGE SITES ABROAD

My Dear Salman Bhai,

It is a matter of much delight to me that you have taken over as our External Affairs Minister. I write to bring to your kind attention the sad condition of India's Heritage Sites abroad. We need to erect befitting memorials, at the spots mentioned below as this will be in keeping with the glory and pride of India and us Indians; and history will remember you for taking action in this matter :

- (a) Begum Hazrat Mahal's tomb on Darbar Marg, Kathmandu is in a painfully broken down condition with encroachments on three sides and garbage littered all over. Empty 'Ghee containers' also used as flower pots adorn the resting place of the valiant Queen of Avadh, who after loosing to the British in the 1857 War of Independence took refuge in Kathmandu (A recent photograph is Annexure I). A suitable Memorial, perhaps in the shape of a grand column, can be erected there with the cooperation of the Government of Nepal. The whole of Uttar Pradesh will be most thankful to you.
- (b) The Indian National Army Memorial in Farrer Park, Singapore is in a non-descript state. All that now remains there is a small bronze plaque, full of scratches and ill maintained (A photo is Annexure II). With the concurrence of the Government of Singapore, the memorial made by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to the "Unknown Soldiers of the Indian National Army" in July 1945 can be easily replicated, as there is sufficient open space there.
- (c) Jim Corbett's tomb in Nyeri (Kenya), situated in the Nyeri cemetery on the Baden- Powell Road is in a deplorable condition. The tomb-stone is broken and the cement layer over the grave has peeled off resulting in water seeping into the remains of this legendary conservationist, writer, among the best known Indians in the English speaking World and hero of Uttarakhand (A photo is Annexure III). With support from the Government of Kenya, a suitable memorial can easily be built here.

Ans / The Secretary

W 7/11/13

JS (Parl & YPF)

11. request our Mission concerned for the same.

Md 17/11

Cont. Page 2..

Dr. 21/11

VP Cell

R. K. Dr. RANJIT BHARGAVA

D.F.A, Ph.D.

PADMA SHRI

Officer, Order of the Golden Ark (Netherlands)
Ritter, Order of Merit (Germany)



42

Phone : 05942-235713
Mobile: 9235556288

THE HIVE, AYARPATA
NAINITAL-263001
(UTTARAKHAND)

(d) The 1st World War Memorial (partially for Indian soldiers) in Haifa (Isreal, then Palestine), is an inadequate tribute to our glorious acts there. The Jodhpur Lancers on Sept 23, 1918, as part of 5th Cavalry Division of the Desert Mounted Corps captured Haifa from the Turkish-German Forces in the finest cavalry charge evermade- the only incident in Military History where a fortified town was captured by Cavalry-on-gallup. 900 Indian soldiers lost their lives in the Palestine operations and most of them were buried/ cremated in the Haifa cemetery. Presently there is a raised platform as a memorial to the Allied Forces. We need a grand memorial in the Haifa cemetery for our Indian soldiers seperately.

(2) I respectfully suggest that your Ministry, through our Embassies and High Commissions abroad should locate, restore, and build suitable memorials in places/ sites located in their respective jurisdictions, connected with the people and events having a major link with the heritage of India.

All such actions will certainly add to the pride and prestige of India, reaffirm our commitment to our heritage and enrichen these Sites as well.

Knowing your dynamic nature, I am sure you will kick-start this process; which has been ignored for long.

Just all is well. With my very best regards + all good wish

The Hon'ble Shri Salman Khurshid,
Minister for External Affairs,
Government of India,
South Block,
NEW DELHI

Thanking you,
Your's sincerely,

Ranjit

(DR. RANJIT BHARGAVA)
Padma Shri





30/MC/2012
16/3/12

RESTRICTED

सचिव (पूर्व)
SECRETARY (EAST)

12 / Dh C / 12
26/3
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली-110 011
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI-110 011
Phone : 2301 2760 Fax : 2379 4139
E-Mail : secyeast@mea.gov.in

44

No. 1317/S(E)/2012

22 February 2012

Dear Raghavan,

Thank you for inflicting the history tutorial, which was most interesting.

2. Our inability as a nation to accept views other than those we regard as the ultimate truth will remain a burden that Indian diplomats will have to bear. This naturally applies to Netaji and Singapore.

regards

Yours sincerely,


Sanjay Singh

Shri T.C.A. Raghavan
High Commissioner of India
Singapore

~~Dh C~~

CA - del.

45

Pl open a file
entitled "Local
Reservations on
SC Bore / INA" &
keep in that.

~~DPC~~

M. L. Laman
20/2

Jul
20/2

~~CA~~

CA.

316
T.C.A. Raghavan



46
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA
31 GRANGE ROAD
SINGAPORE 239702
Tel: 62382510 / 62382518 / 62382520
Fax: 67378696
E-mail: hc@hcsingapore.org
Website: www.hcsingapore.com

RESTRICTED

No. SIN/HC/12

February 7, 2012

Dear Secretary,

As you are aware there has always been an undercurrent of strong reservation from many in Singapore with reference to the memory and legacy of Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA. A scrutiny of older files reveals that these sentiments were strong in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. This was certainly the case when demands in our Parliament and especially in West Bengal for a memorial to Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA received less than a lukewarm response in Singapore. Government of India on its part also attempted to play down this issue domestically and left the matter to be pursued by people of Indian Origin in Singapore who in themselves form a strong pro-Netaji and INA constituency domestically in Singapore.

2. This policy has worked to some extent and with the passage of time, bitter memories of the Japanese occupation and genocide appeared to have eased. In 1995 the National Heritage Board erected a small memorial to the INA and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This, to a considerable extent, although not wholly, addressed concerns in India about a suitable memorial for Netaji in Singapore. I say this because from time to time visitors from India have mentioned that the NHB marker is a relatively small one. However, on the whole it had appeared that memories of the Japanese occupation were fading and as such there were signs that the INA's legacy in Singapore was being seen in less contested terms. In July 2011 the then President of Singapore S. R. Nathan presided over a book launch of a new Biography of Netaji by the Harvard Professor Sugata Bose. The former FM George Yeo had also attended this launch. The event was organised by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. The High Commission associated itself with it following a specific request to this effect from Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director of the Institute of South East Asian Studies.

3. Thereafter a suggestion emerged from the Institute of South East Asian Studies that the High Commission and the Institute should jointly bring a small booklet commemorating Netaji's memory in Singapore as also the book launch function which was presided by the President. Although the High Commission had in part funded this publication (copy enclosed), I had decided that we would not have our name printed as one of the publishers. This was not so much to stay out of domestic controversy in Singapore but rather to avoid getting involved in a

controversy in India. There was a possibility of the latter since there was a tangential reference in George Yeo's foreword to this booklet about Netaji being seen as a Japanese collaborator. On the whole however the booklet has been well received. Our impression therefore was that Netaji's legacy was now seen less in terms of Japanese atrocities in Singapore and was accepted as part of the general anti-colonial history of Asia.

4. However, there has been a recent exchange of angry letters in *The Straits Times* of which I enclose copies. In brief, it is inescapable that Subhas Chandra Bose's legacy in Singapore remains a contested one.

5. I pen this letter for your information because of the light it casts on how a certain aspect of India - Singapore history remains open to multiple readings. It is also useful to underline the fact that as far as Netaji's commemoration and legacy in Singapore is concerned, it is best to let the matter be handled by people of Indian origin in Singapore and not for the Government of India to take any public position unless we are specifically asked to do so. That has been our policy so far and it is a wise one.

6. Finally my apologies for inflicting this history tutorial.

With warm regards,
Yours sincerely,

T.C.A. Raghavan
(T.C.A. Raghavan)

Shri Sanjay Singh
Secretary (East)
Ministry of External Affairs
South Block
New Delhi

Issued: 12/2/12
o/c

Encl.: - As above

Copy with enclosures to:-

1. Shri Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary, MEA, South Block, New Delhi.
2. Shri A. K Goel, Joint Secretary (South), MEA, South Block, New Delhi
3. Shri Navdeep Suri, Joint Secretary (PD), MEA, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

(T.C.A. Raghavan)
High Commissioner

T.C.A. Raghavan



HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA
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Fax: 67378696
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Website: www.hcsingapore.com

RESTRICTED

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(T.C.A. Raghavan)

Shri Sanjay Singh
Secretary (East)
Ministry of External Affairs
South Block
New Delhi

Encl.: As above

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2. Shri A. K Goel, Joint Secretary (South), MEA, South Block, New Delhi
3. Shri Navdeep Suri, Joint Secretary (PD), MEA, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

With regards,

T.C.A. Raghavan
(T.C.A. Raghavan)
High Commissioner

Issued 9/2/12 ok

War monument

"A memorial to the Indian National Army in this vicinity disrespects those who died fighting the Japanese."

DR KEN KWOK, London: "On a recent visit to Singapore, I was walking around the Padang and admiring the sights at the mouth of the Singapore River when I came upon the Cenotaph, and 200m away, the memorial to local World War II hero Lim Bo Seng. I was shocked to see a memorial to the Indian National Army near these monuments. The Cenotaph commemorates Allied servicemen killed in the two world wars. As for Lim, he was martyred in the liberation of Malaya. The Indian National Army, led by Subhas Chandra Bose, consisted mainly of Indian prisoners of war captured by the Japanese, and who then allied themselves to their captors and fought alongside them in Burma (now Myanmar) against the Allies. A memorial to the Indian National Army in this vicinity disrespects those who died fighting the Japanese."

⑤ The Straits Times 02/02/12

Memorial to Indian National Army is appropriate

DR KEN Kwok's sentiments ("War monument: A memorial to the Indian National Army in this vicinity disrespects those who died fighting the Japanese"; Tuesday) are understandable.

The atrocities committed by the Japanese during their wartime occupation of Singapore and Malaya are undeniable. By the same yardstick, the heroic resistance of Lim Bo Seng and others is an ineradicable part of our history.

However, Subhas Chandra Bose, who revitalised the Indian National

Army (INA) in Singapore during the Japanese Occupation, was motivated not by a love of Japanese imperialism, but by hatred of British imperialism in India.

The INA's alliance with the Japanese was tactical - my enemy's enemy is my friend - and not strategic.

Indian prisoners of war were not the only people who joined the INA. Many other Indians, from plantation workers to young women, did so as well.

All of them were driven by a

desire for independence from the British which cut across religion, caste, language, regional affiliations, class and gender.

The charismatic Bose succeeded in bringing them together. He is a part of Singapore's history as much as he is India's.

The memorial to the INA commemorates that unique moment of overlap between those two national histories.

K. Kesavapany

President

Singapore Indian Association

WRITEIN

LETTERS should be meant for exclusive publication in The Straits Times. They should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone numbers. The Forum editor reserves the right to edit a letter. For women, please indicate Miss, Ms, Mrs or Madam. Please e-mail your letter to stforum@sph.com.sg or fax it to 6319-8274. You may also mail your letter to us at: The Straits Times Forum editor, Singapore Press Holdings, 1000 Toa Payoh North, News Centre, Podium, Level 2, Singapore 318994.

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- 4 **MR CHUE CHOON WAI:** Pasir Ris sidewalks good for cyclists, not for pedestrians
- 5 **MR MOHAMMAD YAZID:** Editorial's timely reminder about Egypt
- 6 **MR SUNDARAM VALLIAPPAN:** Indian National Army was anti-British, not pro-Japanese
- 7 **MS TAN TAT JIA:** New policy of NUS law school praised
- 8 **WILDLIFE RESERVES SINGAPORE:** Zoo toilet cleaning contractor reprimanded

Museum is the proper place to recall INA exploits

THE response by Singapore Indian Association president K. Kesavapany does not explain why the memorial to the Indian National Army (INA) deserves pride of place among Singapore's pantheon of heroes and victims of the two world wars of the 20th century ("Memorial to Indian National Army is appropriate"; Thursday).

The INA was a stooge of the Japanese military, and the latter inflicted gross atrocities and untold suffering on thousands of people not only in Singapore but across the Asian countries they occu-

pied during World War II. Subhas Chandra Bose's hatred of British imperialism in India bears no relation to Singaporean feelings. Unlike the Japanese military, the British did not torture, maim and kill innocent civilians in Singapore.

From what I have read, Bose may have succeeded in recruiting Indians who were originally from India and working here but found little support among the local Indians who suffered as much as the other races.

The adventures of the INA are certainly

historical and as such, belong in a museum to be viewed by those interested in history and should not occupy such a prominent location in the Esplanade area.

As I recall, this issue has been raised several times in the media but with no satisfying conclusion.

Maybe the last word should now come from the agency that authorised the erection of the memorial at its present site.

I assume that agency knows the history more than a novice like me.

Steven Chua

The Straits Times
04/2/12

58

Memorial appropriate?

"His sentiment runs smack against the sacrifice of Singaporeans of all ethnicities who defended our island with the British, against the Japanese."

MR JACK CHEW: "I fully appreciate Mr K. Kesavapany's sentiment about Indian prisoners of war fighting on the side of the Japanese - that the Indians were involved in an anti-British struggle against colonialism ('Memorial to Indian National Army is appropriate'; Thursday). But his sentiment runs smack against the sacrifice of Singaporeans of all ethnicities who defended our island with the British, against the Japanese. Perhaps the best solution is to move the monument of the Indian National Army to the country where it makes sense, India. The relocation will surely make the victims of the Japanese war in Singapore rest better and at the same time appease the supporters of the Indian National Army for their fight against British colonialism."

Frankly...

"There is no disrespect; it is about embracing all heroes of the war."

MISS UTHRA JAYAKUMAR: "Lim Bo Seng was certainly a hero who fought for the country he believed in ('War monument: A memorial to the Indian National Army in this vicinity disrespects those who died fighting the Japanese' by Dr Ken Kwok; Tuesday). The Indian National Army led by Subhas Chandra Bose may have fought against the Allies, but they were also fighting for a cause they believed in - the freedom of their country. Hence, there is no disrespect in the way these memorials are placed in the same vicinity; it is about Singapore embracing all the heroes of the war."

Puzzling logic

"We shouldn't make such assumptions when many here sacrificed their lives resisting the Japanese."

MR PEH CHWEE HOE: "In trying to theorise what made the Indian National Army (INA) ally with the Japanese during their wartime occupation of Singapore, Mr K. Kesavapany's assumption that 'my enemy's enemy is my friend' confounds me ('Memorial to Indian National Army is appropriate'; Thursday). By the same argument, a triad boss who guns down the boss of another triad is a friend of the police and the people. We are uncertain about whether the INA fought alongside the Japanese for the reason cited by Mr Kesavapany, or whether it had simply allied itself with what had then appeared to be the stronger party likeliest to win the war. What is certain is that we shouldn't make such assumptions when many here sacrificed their lives resisting the Japanese. What is also certain is that whichever authority that put up the memorial had not done enough research."

War monument

"A memorial to the Indian National Army in this vicinity disrespects those who died fighting the Japanese."

DR KEN KWOK, London: "On a recent visit to Singapore, I was walking around the Padang and admiring the sights at the mouth of the Singapore River when I came upon the Cenotaph, and 200m away, the memorial to local World War II hero Lim Bo Seng. I was shocked to see a memorial to the Indian National Army near these monuments. The Cenotaph commemorates Allied servicemen killed in the two world wars. As for Lim, he was martyred in the liberation of Malaya. The Indian National Army, led by Subhas Chandra Bose, consisted mainly of Indian prisoners of war captured by the Japanese, and who then allied themselves to their captors and fought alongside them in Burma (now Myanmar) against the Allies. A memorial to the Indian National Army in this vicinity disrespects those who died fighting the Japanese."

Memorial to Indian National Army is appropriate

DR KEN Kwok's sentiments ("War monument: A memorial to the Indian National Army in this vicinity disrespects those who died fighting the Japanese"; Tuesday) are understandable.

The atrocities committed by the Japanese during their wartime occupation of Singapore and Malaya are undeniable. By the same yardstick, the heroic resistance of Lim Bo Seng and others is an ineradicable part of our history.

However, Subhas Chandra Bose, who revitalised the Indian National

Army (INA) in Singapore during the Japanese Occupation, was motivated not by a love of Japanese imperialism, but by hatred of British imperialism in India.

The INA's alliance with the Japanese was tactical - my enemy's enemy is my friend - and not strategic.

Indian prisoners of war were not the only people who joined the INA. Many other Indians, from plantation workers to young women, did so as well.

All of them were driven by a

desire for independence from the British which cut across religion, caste, language, regional affiliations, class and gender.

The charismatic Bose succeeded in bringing them together. He is a part of Singapore's history as much as he is India's.

The memorial to the INA commemorates that unique moment of overlap between those two national histories.

K. Kesavapany

President

Singapore Indian Association

WRITE IN

LETTERS should be meant for exclusive publication in The Straits Times. They should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone numbers. The Forum editor reserves the right to edit a letter. For women, please indicate Miss, Ms, Mrs or Madam. Please e-mail your letter to stforum@sph.com.sg or fax it to 6319-8274. You may also mail your letter to us at: The Straits Times Forum editor, Singapore Press Holdings, 1000 Toa Payoh North, News Centre, Podium, Level 2, Singapore 318994.

Museum is the proper place to recall INA exploits

THE response by Singapore Indian Association president K. Kesavapany does not explain why the memorial to the Indian National Army (INA) deserves pride of place among Singapore's pantheon of heroes and victims of the two world wars of the 20th century ("Memorial to Indian National Army is appropriate"; Thursday).

The INA was a stooge of the Japanese military, and the latter inflicted gross atrocities and untold suffering on thousands of people not only in Singapore but across the Asian countries they occu-

pied during World War II. Subhas Chandra Bose's hatred of British imperialism in India bears no relation to Singaporean feelings. Unlike the Japanese military, the British did not torture, maim and kill innocent civilians in Singapore.

From what I have read, Bose may have succeeded in recruiting Indians who were originally from India and working here but found little support among the local Indians who suffered as much as the other races.

The adventures of the INA are certainly

historical and as such, belong in a museum to be viewed by those interested in history and should not occupy such a prominent location in the Esplanade area.

As I recall, this issue has been raised several times in the media but with no satisfying conclusion.

Maybe the last word should now come from the agency that authorised the erection of the memorial at its present site.

I assume that agency knows the history more than a novice like me.

Steven Chua

The Straits Times
04/2/12

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Memorial appropriate?

"His sentiment runs smack against the sacrifice of Singaporeans of all ethnicities who defended our island with the British, against the Japanese."

MR JACK CHEW: "I fully appreciate Mr K. Kesavapany's sentiment about Indian prisoners of war fighting on the side of the Japanese - that the Indians were involved in an anti-British struggle against colonialism ('Memorial to Indian National Army is appropriate'; Thursday). But his sentiment runs smack against the sacrifice of Singaporeans of all ethnicities who defended our island with the British, against the Japanese. Perhaps the best solution is to move the monument of the Indian National Army to the country where it makes sense, India. The relocation will surely make the victims of the Japanese war in Singapore rest better and at the same time appease the supporters of the Indian National Army for their fight against British colonialism."

Frankly...

"There is no disrespect; it is about embracing all heroes of the war."

MISS UTHRA JAYAKUMAR: "Lim Bo Seng was certainly a hero who fought for the country he believed in ('War monument: A memorial to the Indian National Army in this vicinity disrespects those who died fighting the Japanese' by Dr Ken Kwok; Tuesday). The Indian National Army led by Subhas Chandra Bose may have fought against the Allies, but they were also fighting for a cause they believed in - the freedom of their country. Hence, there is no disrespect in the way these memorials are placed in the same vicinity; it is about Singapore embracing all the heroes of the war."

Puzzling logic

"We shouldn't make such assumptions when many here sacrificed their lives resisting the Japanese."

MR PEH CHWEE HOE: "In trying to theorise what made the Indian National Army (INA) ally with the Japanese during their wartime occupation of Singapore, Mr K. Kesavapany's assumption that 'my enemy's enemy is my friend' confounds me ('Memorial to Indian National Army is appropriate'; Thursday). By the same argument, a triad boss who guns down the boss of another triad is a friend of the police and the people. We are uncertain about whether the INA fought alongside the Japanese for the reason cited by Mr Kesavapany, or whether it had simply allied itself with what had then appeared to be the stronger party likeliest to win the war. What is certain is that we shouldn't make such assumptions when many here sacrificed their lives resisting the Japanese. What is also certain is that whichever authority that put up the memorial had not done enough research."

INA 'memorial' actually a historical marker, says board

WE THANK Forum readers for the interest shown in the 70th anniversary of the Battle for Singapore.

The fall of Singapore and the subsequent Occupation marked the darkest chapter in Singapore's story, where thousands of lives were lost brutally. Survivors experienced extreme hardship, regardless of race, language or religion.

Some readers have shared their views on the Indian National Army (INA) "memorial" located at the Esplanade Park. It is not a "memorial" dedicated to the INA but a World War II marker erected by the National Heritage Board (NHB) in 1995 in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

It is thus a historical marker denoting the site of the original INA memorial demolished by the British in 1945 on their return to Singapore, two months after it was erected.

Although several million Indian troops fought World War II as part of the Allied forces, there was a small number in the form of the INA who saw it, at that point in time, as their mission to free India from colonial rule.

The INA marker is one of 14 World War II markers that attempt to be brief but vital points of reference for Singaporeans, providing a holistic picture of the war and its impact on Singapore. Coupled with the NHB's other heritage trails and markers installed around the island, Singaporeans, especially the younger generations, can discover more about our nation's shared history and heritage.

Thangamma Karthigesu (Ms)
Director, Education and Outreach
National Heritage Board